

FCC REPORT

JULY – SEPT. 2008

CRIME & VIOLENCE

5AM - 7/18

A STRING OF CAR BREAKINGS PUT PEOPLE IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY ON ALERT. AIRBAGS HAVE BEEN STOLEN FROM SEVERAL CARS IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY. POLICE SAY THE THEFTS HAPPENED TUESDAY IN THE DALE CITY, DUMFRIES, AND WOODBRIDGE AREAS. THE SUSPECT OR SUSPECTS BROKE THE WINDOWS OF SOME CARS... BUT OTHER'S DIDN'T HAVE SIGNS OF FORCED ENTRY.

5AM - 9/24

POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING A POSSIBLE HATE CRIME INVOLVING CAMPAIGN SIGNS IN ALEXANDRIA. INVESTIGATORS SAY SUSPECTS SPRAYED RACIALLY-CHARGED MESSAGES ON THE POLITICAL SIGNS OVER THE WEEKEND. SINCE THE TAGGINGS... NEW SIGNS HAVE GONE UP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AROUND THE 14-HUNDRED BLOCK OF TRINITY DRIVE. SO FAR, POLICE HAVE NO SUSPECTS.

6AM - 8/27

CRIME IS UP IN FAIRFAX COUNTY. POLICE SAY CRIME ROSE 12-PERCENT IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR. THE INCREASE WAS FUELED MOSTLY BY A RISE IN THE NUMBER OF BURGLARIES AND LARCENIES. BUT "VIOLENT" CRIME DROPPED ALMOST 10-PERCENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.. COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

6AM - 9/13

D-C IS MAKING STRIDES WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING CRIME. POLICE CHIEF CATHY LANIER SAYS VIOLENT CRIME DROPPED SIX-PERCENT BETWEEN JUNE AND AUGUST -- EVEN THOUGH VIOLENCE TENDS TO SURGE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS. OFFICIALS CREDIT THE DROP TO PARTNERSHIPS WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES, AND A NEW HOMICIDE INTELLIGENCE TASK FORCE.

12PM - 7/23

A NEW ORDINANCE WILL ALLOW PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY OFFICIALS TO ENTER PRIVATE PROPERTY TO REMOVE GRAFFITI. THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVED THE MEASURE THIS WEEK. AUTHORITIES MUST GIVE PROPERTY OWNERS A WEEK'S NOTICE BEFORE BEGINNING THE WORK. THE COUNTY WILL PARTNER WITH COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS VOLUNTEERS TO REMOVE THE GRAFFITI.

5PM - 8/11

TALK ABOUT CLEANING HOUSE...A VIR'GINIA CLEANING LADY HAS STRUCK AGAIN AND THIS TIME SHE'S BEEN CAUGHT. MIRIAN MARTINEZ HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF STEALING FROM HER CLIENTS IN FAIRFAX AND LOUDOUN COUNTIES. POLICE SAY AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED OF HER ALLEGED STOLEN ITEMS HAVE SHOWN UP AT A LOCAL PAWN SHOP. AMONG THE STOLEN ITEMS IS A DIAMOND RING WORTH 42-THOUSAND DOLLARS. MARTINEZ WAS CHARGED LAST MONTH WITH STEALING FROM ONE HOME AND LATER CHARGED WITH STEALING FROM THREE OTHERS.

6PM - 7/25

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE WANT TO OUTFIT MORE SQUAD CARS WITH LICENSE PLATE SCANNERS.... AND THEY'RE ASKING FOR FEDERAL HELP TO PAY FOR THEM. THE INFRARED CAMERAS QUICKLY SCAN TAGS FOR STOLEN VEHICLES OR CARS WITH TIES TO ORGANIZED CRIME. RIGHT NOW-- THE COUNTY ONLY HAS TWO CAMERAS. BUT THE POLICE AGENCY IS ASKING FOR GRANT MONEY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, BECAUSE THE CAMERAS CAN AID IN TRACKING DOWN SUSPECTED TERRORISTS.

6PM - 8/6

A HIGH-TECH CRIME-FIGHTING TOOL HAS NOW BEEN USED IN 5-THOUSAND VIRGINIA CASES. THE STATE'S D-N-A DATABANK REACHED THE MILESTONE THIS WEEK. UNDER VIRGINIA LAW--ALL CONVICTED FELONS MUST SUBMIT A D-N-A SAMPLE. A HIT OCCURS WHEN GENETIC MATERIAL RECOVERED FROM A CRIME SCENE MATCHES A SAMPLE IN THE DATABANK GOVERNOR TIM Kaine SAYS THE MILESTONE SHOWS WHAT A POWERFUL TOOL D-N-A HAS BECOME TO HELP FIGHT CRIME.

6PM - 8/26

A FORMER MONTGOMERY COUNTY TEACHER FACES DRUG CHARGES FOR ALLEGEDLY GIVING COCAINE TO STUDENTS. POLICE ARRESTED 44 YEAR OLD, THERESA CUNNINGHAM DUARTE. SHE WAS A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER AT EINSTEIN HIGH SCHOOL IN KENSINGTON IN 2003 AND A FULL TIME TEACHER AT WOOTTON HIGH SCHOOL IN 2004. SHE RESIGNED LAST YEAR. SHE IS ACCUSED OF DISTRIBUTING COCAINE OUT OF HER HOME. SHE'S OUT OF JAIL ON 150 THOUSAND DOLLAR BOND.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

5AM - 7/1

D.C. COUNCIL MEMBER PHIL MENDELSON PLANS TO INTRODUCE A GUN BILL. THE LEGISLATION IS IN RESPONSE TO THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION TO OVERTURN THE CITY'S HANDGUN BAN. THE BILL WOULD STILL REQUIRE FIREARMS IN THE HOME TO BE UNLOADED, DISASSEMBLED, AND TRIGGER-LOCKED. BUT IT WOULD ADD AN EXEMPTION FOR "IMMEDIATE SELF-DEFENSE."

5AM - 7/2

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS TAKING THE PRESSURE OFF OF MARYLAND SCHOOLS.. STRUGGLING TO MEET ACADEMIC STANDARDS. UNDER A NEW POLICY, MARYLAND WILL NOW HAVE TWO ACCOUNTABILITY TRACKS: ONE FOR SCHOOLS STRUGGLING OVERALL.. AND ANOTHER FOR THOSE WITH "FOCUSED" NEEDS. PRINCE GEORGE'S AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS FACED TOUGH REPERCUSSIONS UNDER THE PREVIOUS "NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND" LAW.

5AM - 7/17

THERE'S NEW PRESSURE TO RESOLVE A WIDE-RANGING TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE FOR NORTHERN VIRGINIA. A WASHINGTON AREA BUSINESS GROUP IS THREATENING TO WITHHOLD CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM VIRGINIA DELEGATES THIS ELECTION YEAR -- UNLESS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSES A TRANSPORTATION FUNDING BILL. A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION ENDED LAST WEEK.. WITH NO AGREEMENT ON HOW TO PAY FOR HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN HIGHWAY PROJECTS.

5AM - 7/24

A PROPOSAL TO CHARGE FEES FOR AMBULANCE RIDES WILL BE DEBATED ... IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A WORK SESSION THIS MORNING ON THE PROPOSAL. THE COUNTY IS CONSIDERING CHARGING 300 TO 800 DOLLARS... WHICH WILL BE CHARGED TO A PATIENT'S INSURANCE COMPANY. PATIENTS WITHOUT INSURANCE WON'T BE CHARGED.

5AM - 8/6

MORE TROUBLE FOR D.C.'S SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM.. "THE WASHINGTON POST" REPORTS THE BILL FOR THE PROGRAM HAS BALLOONED TO MORE THAN 50-MILLION DOLLARS. THAT'S AT LEAST 30-MILLION DOLLARS MORE THAN THE PROGRAM'S ORIGINAL BUDGET. LAST WEEK MAYOR FENTY ASKED THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO ALLOCATE MORE THAN 20-MILLION DOLLARS FROM AN EMERGENCY FUND.. FOR THE PROGRAM. COUNCIL CHAIR VINCENT GRAY SAYS HE'S SHOCKED BY FENTY'S REQUEST.

6AM - 7/8

D-C MAYOR ADRIAN FENTY AND COUNCIL MEMBER JIM GRAHAM WILL OUTLINE THEIR STRATEGY FOR GANG PREVENTION THIS MORNING. THE MEN WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS HOW TO PREVENT YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT FROM JOINING GANGS. 'THE CITYWIDE COORDINATING COUNCIL ON YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION'... FOUNDED BY GRAHAM... WILL ALSO BE ON HAND.

6AM - 7/22

MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO WEIGH IN TONIGHT.. ON A BILL THAT WOULD RESTRICT THE PARKING OF LARGE VEHICLES. COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, BUSES, AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES WOULD BE BANNED... FOR THE MOST PART... FROM PARKING ON PUBLIC ROADS IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS. A PUBLIC HEARING IS SET FOR 7:30 TONIGHT.. AT THE COUNCIL OFFICE BUILDING IN ROCKVILLE.

6AM - 7/28

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL IS REVIEWING A PROPOSAL TO HOUSE MEDICAL FACILITIES IN OLD SHOPPING CENTERS. A REPORT PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDS RENOVATING OR BUILDING AT THE FORMER LANDOVER MALL... IVERSON MALL IN TEMPLE HILLS... FORESTVILLE PLAZA... AND LANDOVER CROSSING. BACKERS OF THE PLAN SAY IT WOULD MAKE HEALTH CARE SERVICES MORE ACCESSIBLE IN UNDERSERVED AREAS.

12PM - 7/15

MORE CONCERNS THIS NOON FOR THE D-C DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES, THE AGENCY HAS ANNOUNCED IT'S INVESTIGATING THE DEATH OF A SECOND BABY AT THE CENTER OF A NEGLECT CASE. OFFICIALS HAVE NOT CONFIRMED HOW THE CHILD DIED, BUT COUNCIL MEMBER TOMMY WELLS SAYS HE WAS TOLD THE BOY'S MOTHER ROLLED OVER AND SLEPT ON HIM. YESTERDAY, THE D-C COUNCIL HELD A HEARING IN RESPONSE TO THE DEATH OF A DIFFERENT CHILD.

12PM - 8/7

THE D-C OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION REACHED A DEAL THAT WOULD BRING VERIZON CABLE T-V SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT. SUPPORTERS SAY THAT BRINGING IN FIOS SERVICE WILL MEAN MORE CHOICES FOR CUSTOMERS... AND POSSIBLY BETTER PRICES. THE AGREEMENT STILL FACES LEGAL QUESTIONS FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL... AND MUST BE APPROVED BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL. IF APPROVED... SERVICE COULD BEGIN IN SOME AREAS EARLY NEXT YEAR.

5PM - 9/24

ENGLISH WILL *NOT* BECOME THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF COLLEGE PARK. LAST NIGHT THE CITY COUNCIL STRUCK DOWN A MEASURE PROPOSED BY COUNCILMAN JACK PERRY. HE ARGUED TAXPAYERS SHOULDN'T HAVE TO PAY TO HAVE CITY DOCUMENTS TRANSLATED INTO SEVERAL LANGUAGES ...AND SAID THE MOVE WOULD HAVE SAVED COLLEGE PARK THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN TRANSLATION COSTS. SIMILAR MEASURES HAVE *PASSED* IN WALKERSVILLE AND TANEYTOWN.

6PM - 7/15

SUPPORT OF D-C VOTING RIGHTS IS GAINING STEAM ON CAPITOL HILL. DELEGATE ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON SAID A SENATE BILL NOW HAS MORE REPUBLICAN BACKING... GARNERING ENOUGH VOTES FOR ITS PASSAGE. A TIME FOR A NEW VOTE HASN'T BEEN SET, BUT DELEGATE NORTON IS OPTIMISTIC IT WILL BE THIS TERM. MEANWHILE, THE D-C COUNCIL IS SET TO VOTE ON A BILL TO ALLOW ELECTRONIC MESSAGE BOARDS AROUND TOWN DISPLAYING THE AMOUNT OF TAXES DISTRICT RESIDENTS PAY WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

5AM - 7/18

A MARYLAND FAMILY IS SUING THE MAKERS OF BOTOX. THEY SAY THE POPULAR ANTI-WRINKLE DRUG KILLED THEIR CHILD. ROBBIE BOSWELL WAS BORN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY. HE RECEIVED BOTOX INJECTIONS FOR THREE YEARS TO HELP HIM STRETCH OUT HIS MUSCLES. HIS FAMILY SUED THE DRUG'S MAGER -- ALLERGAN -- AFTER FINDING OUT THAT THE F-D-A WARNED AGAINST USING IT FOR "OFF LABEL" USES. THEY SAY THE COMPANY PROMOTED THOSE KINDS OF USES.

5AM - 8/7

THE GOVERNMENT LAID OUT MORE EVIDENCE AGAINST THE SUSPECTED ANTHRAX SCIENTIST WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE. ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS... BRUCE IVINS WAS BEHIND THE FIVE ANTHRAX DEATHS IN 2001. INVESTIGATORS SAY THEY TRACED THE ENVELOPES USED TO SEND THE DEADLY POWDER THROUGH THE MAIL BACK TO IVINS' FORT DETRICK, MARYLAND LAB. PROSECUTORS SAY MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE ALSO HAD ACCESS TO THE SUBSTANCE.

6AM - 8/8

THE F-B-I HAS LAUNCHED AN INVESTIGATION INTO A VIOLENT DRUG BUST AT A LOCAL MAYOR'S HOME. AGENTS OPENED THE INVESTIGATION HOURS AFTER BERWYN HEIGHTS MAYOR CHEYE (SHY) CALVO SPOKE TO THE MEDIA ABOUT THE RAID. PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES BURST INTO HIS HOME AFTER TRACKING A SHIPMENT OF MARIJUANA ADDRESSED TO HIS WIFE. DURING THE RAID...DEPUTIES SHOT AND KILLED THE MAYOR'S TWO DOGS.

6AM - 9/3

A D-C POLICE OFFICER FACES RECKLESS DRIVING AND DRUG POSSESSION CHARGES THIS MORNING. INVESTIGATORS SAY 47-YEAR-OLD HENRY SMALLWOOD AND ANOTHER MAN WERE SPOTTED SMOKING IN A PICNIC AREA OF ROCK CREEK PARK YESTERDAY. OFFICERS SAY THEY SEARCHED THE MEN, FOUND MARIJUANA... AND THAT'S WHEN SMALLWOOD JUMPED IN HIS CAR AND TOOK OFF. PARK POLICE CAUGHT HIM AFTER A BRIEF CHASE.

12PM - 7/2

THE POPULAR PSYCHEDELIC DRUG, SALVIA, IS NOW ILLEGAL IN VIRGINIA. GOVERNOR TIM KAINÉ SIGNED A BILL CLASSIFYING THE NATURALLY GROWN HERB AS A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE. AT LEAST ONE COMPANY THAT SUPPLIES SALVIA ONLINE IS CLOSING BECAUSED IT'S BASED IN VIRGINIA. SOME MARYLAND LAWMAKERS PLAN ON DRAFTING SIMILAR LEGISLATION.

5PM - 7/28

A LOUISA COUNTY FATHER-- ACCUSED OF GIVING COCAINE TO HIS TWO TODDLERS-- IS NOW FACING CHILD ABUSE AND DRUG CHARGES. -- A FEDERAL GRAND JURY CHARGED DERRICK CHRISTMAS AND HIS GIRLFRIEND WITH 2 COUNTS OF FELONY CHILD NEGLECT. CHRISTMAS WILL FACE ADDITIONAL DRUG DISTRIBUTION CHARGES. IN APRIL-- A CONCERNED RELATIVE TOOK THE COUPLE'S CHILDREN TO A HOSPITAL, WHERE THE THREE-YEAR-OLD AND SIXTEEN-MONTH-OLD REPORTEDLY TESTED POSITIVE FOR COCAINE AND MARIJUANA. THE CHILDREN ARE NOW IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.

5PM - 9/16

NEW TONIGHT... THE GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO BAN MORE THAN 30-TYPES OF GENERIC DRUGS FROM BEING BROUGHT INTO THE UNITED STATES. THE DRUGS... INCLUDING POPULAR ANTIBIOTICS AND CHOLESTEROL MEDICATIONS... ARE MADE BY INDIA'S RANBAXY LABS. AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY THE DRUGS MIGHT NOT BE AS EFFECTIVE AS ADVERTISED, AND COULD LEAD TO ALLERGIC REACTIONS OR OTHER PROBLEMS. TO SEE A FULL LIST OF THE DRUGS THAT WILL NO LONGER BE ALLOWED IN THE U-S... GO TO OUR WEBSITE... WJLA-DOT-COM.

6PM - 9/5

IT WAS A VERY SPECIAL DAY FOR MORE THAN A DOZEN WOMEN IN THE DISTRICT. 16-WOMEN GRADUATED FROM FAMILY TREATMENT COURT -- A SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM FOR MOTHERS AND GUARDIANS ACCUSED OF CHILD NEGLECT. THEY HAVE SPENT THE PAST FEW MONTHS UNDERGOING SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT, PARENTING CLASSES, AND COUNSELING. THE WOMEN ARE STARTING OVER WITH THEIR CHILDREN...AND WITHOUT DRUGS.

11PM - 7/31

A *TURTLE* HELPED POLICE BUST A TEENAGER ACCUSED OF GROWING MARIJUANA IN ROCK CREEK PARK. A PARK RANGER WAS TRACKING THE TURTLE, WHICH IS EQUIPPED WITH A G-P-S DEVICE, WHEN HE STUMBLED ON THE STASH. TEN MARIJUANA PLANTS WERE BEING GROWN JUST SOUTH OF THE MARYLAND LINE. U-S PARK POLICE SET UP SURVEILLANCE... AND ARRESTED 19-YEAR OLD ISIAH JOHNSON, AFTER CATCHING HIM TENDING TO THE PLANTS.

11PM - 8/27

DISTRICT POLICE TAKE A BIG STEP TOWARD RIDDING A NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD OF DRUGS AND CRIME. OFFICERS ARRESTED NEARLY EIGHTY PEOPLE IN THE TROUBLED TRINIDAD AREA... AS THEY TRIED TO CLOSE DOWN A VIOLENT DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION. THEY ALSO RECOVERED DRUGS WORTH MORE THAN 125-THOUSAND DOLLARS. RESIDENTS WELCOME THE NEWS... BUT SAY MORE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

5AM - 9/12

SEVERAL BLIGHTED BUILDINGS IN THE 23-HUNDRED BLOCK OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, SE WASHINGTON WILL BE DEMOLISHED... MAYOR ADRIAN FENTY WILL BE THERE... TO WITNESS THE START OF THE PROJECT. THE BUILDINGS WILL BE REPLACED WITH MORE THAN 100 NEW HOUSING UNITS AND STORES. THIS IS THE FIRST MAJOR DEVELOPMENT ALONG THIS SECTION OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE IN DECADES.

6AM - 7/22

THERE'S A DILEMMA IN FAIRFAX COUNTY'S PLAN TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO COUNTY EMPLOYEES. THE PLAN IS DESIGNED TO KEEP POLICE OFFICERS, FIREFIGHTERS, TEACHERS AND OTHER COUNTY WORKERS IN AN AREA... WHERE HOUSING COSTS ARE VERY HIGH. BUT THE PUBLIC, PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT *CANNOT* BE EXCLUSIVE TO COUNTY EMPLOYEES OR THE COUNTY WILL LOSE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN FEDERAL TAX CREDITS. NOW ANYONE WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY.

6AM - 8/14

A PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY REAL ESTATE AGENT PLEADED GUILTY TO VARIOUS CHARGES IN THE D.C. TAX FRAUD SCANDAL. COURT RECORDS SHOW ALETHIA GROOMS BECAME FRIENDS IN THE 1980'S WITH THE SCHEME'S ALLEGED RINGLEADER, HARRIETTE WALTERS. PROSECUTORS SAY THE SCHEME DEFRAUDED THE D.C. TAX OFFICE OUT OF NEARLY 50-MILLION DOLLARS.

12PM - 7/18

AN ALLEGED 35-MILLION DOLLAR FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAM IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY... IS GROWING. A NINTH PERSON IS NOW CHARGED. 36-YEAR-OLD RICHARD ALLISON OF CAMP SPRINGS IS ACCUSED OF CONSPIRING TO COMMIT MAIL AND WIRE FRAUD. FEDERAL PROSECUTORS SAY HE HELPED DUPED HOMEOWNERS AND LENDERS INTO SIGNING OVER HOMES FACING FORECLOSURE TO THE METROPOLITAN MONEY STORE. THAT GROUP THEN USED THE EQUITY TO PAY FOR LAVISH LIFESTYLES.

12PM - 8/14

THE FORECLOSURE SPIKE ISN'T SHOWING ANY SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN. NEW NUMBERS SHOW NATIONWIDE FORECLOSURE FILINGS JUMPED EIGHT-PERCENT JUST BETWEEN JUNE AND JULY. ACCORDING TO A NEW STUDY BY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, SINCE MARCH -- PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HAS SEEN THE MOST FORECLOSURES IN THE STATE... 32 PERCENT OF MARYLAND'S TOTAL. MONTGOMERY COUNTY RANKED THE SECOND WORST.

5PM - 7/25

HOUSE SWAPPING. IT'S A WAY TO GO ON VACATION, BUT STILL LIVE LIKE A LOCAL! LAUREN KAHN'S BEEN HOUSE SWAPPING HER MCLEAN HOME FOR 20 YEARS. THIS SUMMER, SHE'LL STAY AT A HOME IN AUSTRALIA FOR A MONTH FOR FREE... WHILE THAT FAMILY STAYS AT HER HOUSE. HOUSE SWAPPERS TRADE HOMES, CARS - WITH DRIVING DIRECTIONS - AND ENTERTAINMENT TIPS. BUT TRAVEL EXPERTS SAY DO YOUR RESEARCH BEFORE YOU HAND OVER YOUR KEYS.

6PM - 9/30

SOME DISTURBING NUMBERS OUT TONIGHT ON THE STATE OF NURSING HOMES IN THE DISTRICT. ACCORDING TO A NEW FEDERAL REPORT, EVERY SINGLE NURSING HOME IN THE DISTRICT HAD AT LEAST ONE DEFICIENCY. THE MOST COMMON DEFICIENCIES CENTERED AROUND THE QUALITY OF CARE AND MEALS. FOR-PROFIT NURSING HOMES WERE GIVEN THE MOST CITATIONS, AHEAD OF GOVERNMENT AND NON-PROFIT NURSING HOMES.

11PM - 7/26

A LOW-INCOME HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN LOUDOUN COUNTY WILL LIKELY BEAR THE NAME OF A VICTIM OF THE VIRGINIA TECH CAMPUS TRAGEDY. ERIN PETERSON WAS KILLED ALONGSIDE 31

OTHERS IN LAST YEAR'S SHOOTINGS IN BLACKSBURG. HER MOTHER SAYS PETERSON WAS WELL-ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY... AND HAD ASPIRED TO HELP HOUSE NEEDY FAMILIES. SO NOW... 'HABITAT FOR HUMANITY' IS PLANNING TO HONOR HER LEGACY BY NAMING A FIVE HOME SUBDIVISION AFTER HER.

11PM - 9/14

EFFORTS HAVE STARTED, TO SAVE A DISTRICT HOMELESS SHELTER FROM SHUTTING DOWN. RESIDENTS HAVE ALREADY BEGAN MOVING OUT OF THE FRANKLIN SCHOOL IN NORTHWEST. THE CITY WANTS TO CLOSE THE BUILDING BY OCTOBER FIRST, AND IS HELPING RESIDENTS FIND APARTMENTS BUT ADVOCATES FOR THE HOMELESS SAY THE MEN WON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE SERVICES THEY NEED. THIS WEEK, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL TAKE UP EMERGENCY LEGISLATION TO DELAY THE CLOSING.

HEALTH & HEALTH CARE

5AM - 7/18

RISING FUEL PRICES HAVE MORE PEOPLE WALKING. AND THAT'S ESPECIALLY THE CASE IN THE DISTRICT. "WALK-SCORE-DOT-COM" RELEASED ITS NATIONAL RANKINGS OF THE MOST WALKABLE AND UN-WALKABLE CITIES IN THE U.S. D.C. WAS RANKED THE SEVENTH MOST WALKABLE CITY IN THE COUNTRY. A PRO-WALKING GROUP SAYS GOING ON FOOT NOT ONLY SAVES PEOPLE BIG AT THE PUMP. IT ALSO HAS HEALTH BENEFITS.

5AM - 7/28

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL IS REVIEWING A PROPOSAL TO HOUSE MEDICAL FACILITIES IN OLD SHOPPING CENTERS. A REPORT PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDS RENOVATING OR BUILDING AT THE FORMER LANDOVER MALL.. IVERSON MALL IN TEMPLE HILLS.. FORESTVILLE PLAZA.. AND LANDOVER CROSSING. BACKERS OF THE PLAN SAY IT WOULD MAKE HEALTH CARE SERVICES MORE ACCESSIBLE IN UNDERSERVED AREAS.

12PM - 7/28

SOME MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA WILL SOON HAVE TO PAY MORE FOR TREATMENT. THE 'FAIRFAX-FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD' HAS ANNOUNCED RISING COSTS ARE FORCING IT TO RAISE SOME FEES BY ABOUT 20-DOLLARS. THE AGENCY ASSISTS PEOPLE DEALING WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL ILLNESSES. IT SAYS PATIENTS' INSURANCE PROVIDERS ARE EXPECTED TO ABSORB MOST OF THE COSTS.

5PM - 9/23

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OFFICIALS ARE HOPING TO FIND A BUYER FOR THREE PUBLIC HOSPITALS BY THE END OF THE YEAR. LETTERS HAVE GONE OUT TO ABOUT 75 HEALTH CARE COMPANIES. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE BID, A POTENTIAL BUYER WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE A DETAILED OFFER BY DECEMBER. THE THREE MEDICAL CENTERS AT STAKE ARE IN CHEVERLY, BOWIE, AND LAUREL. HOSPITAL OFFICIALS PLAN TO MEET AT THE END OF OCTOBER TO DISCUSS THE PROGRESS.

11PM - 7/16

NEW TONIGHT... ALEXANDRIA CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY MOSQUITOS FROM DAINGERFIELD ISLAND HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR THE WEST NILE VIRUS. THE NEWS COMES JUST HOURS AFTER OFFICIALS IN ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA IDENTIFIED *THAT* CITY'S FIRST POSITIVE BATCH OF THE VIRUS THIS YEAR. ARLINGTON'S INFECTED MOSQUITOS WERE DISCOVERED AT I-66 AND NORTH FAIRFAX DRIVE.

RACIAL, ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS & SEXUAL

5AM - 7/2

THE GAY AND LESBIAN ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE IS LAUNCHING AN EFFORT TO LEGALIZE PROSTITUTION IN D.C. THE GROUP SAYS MAKING PROSTITUTION LEGITIMATE WOULD ALLOW THE CITY TO REGULATE, ZONE, AND TAX THE PRACTICE. THE GROUP IS CALLING ON CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO FILL OUT A QUESTIONNAIRE ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES.. INCLUDING LEGALIZING PROSTITUTION.

5AM - 7/25

MONTGOMERY COUNTY VOTERS WILL DECIDE WHETHER AN ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW PROTECTING TRANS-GENDER PEOPLE WILL REMAIN ON THE BOOKS. THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTS A JUDGE RULED THAT ADVOCATES FOR GAY AND TRANSGENDER RIGHTS MISSED A DEADLINE TO CHALLENGE A DECISION TO PUT THE LAW ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT. THE LAW WAS SIGNED LAST YEAR... BUT OPPONENTS WERE ABLE TO FORCE A REFERENDUM ON IT.

5AM - 8/8

A BATTLE IS BREWING BETWEEN RELIGION AND ARCHITECTURE IN NORTHWEST WASHINGTON. THE THIRD CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST WANTS TO TEAR DOWN ITS CURRENT HOME ON 16TH STREET AND BUILD A NEW CHURCH. THE BUILDING WAS DECLARED A HISTORIC LANDMARK BECAUSE IT WAS BUILT BY THE FIRM OF FAMED ARCHITECT I-M PEI (PAY). THE CHURCH FILED A LAWSUIT TO TRY AND OVERTURN THAT DESIGNATION. THEY SAY IT IS A MATTER OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

5AM - 8/19

A BRIEFING WILL BE HELD IN D.C.. FOR PARENTS CONCERNED ABOUT SEXUAL PREDATORS AT SCHOOLS. A-D-T SECURITY SERVICES AND THE KLAAS KIDS FOUNDATION WILL DEMONSTRATE TECHNOLOGY THAT'S DESIGNED TO STOP PREDATORS FROM ENTERING SCHOOL CAMPUSES. FREE CHILD SAFETY KITS WILL BE GIVEN TO PARENTS. THE EVENT BEGINS AT 11:30 THIS MORNING AT JANNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.. IN NORTHWEST D.C.

5AM - 9/15

A STRING OF VIOLENT ATTACKS HAS INCREASED FEARS OF "GAY BASHING" ON THE STREETS OF D.C. THE MOST RECENT ATTACK HAPPENED NEAR THE "B-BAR" IN THE SHAW NEIGHBORHOOD. TWO MEN WERE BEATEN A GROUP OF MEN... ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE THE VICTIMS WERE GAY. TODD METROKIN SAYS HE WAS A VICTIM OF A HATE CRIME TWO MONTHS AGO.

5PM - 7/10

THE SMITHSONIAN IS ISSUING A HIGH-PROFILE WANT AD. IT'S SEARCHING FOR ARCHITECTS TO BUILD THE 'NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE.' OFFICIALS WANT A DESIGN THAT EMBODIES RESILIENCY, SPIRITUALITY, AND OPTIMISM. INITIAL CONCEPTS ARE DUE THIS FALL. THEN-- A GROUP OF FINALISTS WILL COMPETE IN A DESIGN COMPETITION.

5PM - 7/18

NEW RESEARCH INDICATES AFRICAN AMERICANS MAY BE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO HIV BECAUSE OF A GENETIC TRAIT. RESEARCHERS AT THE JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FOUND THAT BLACKS HAVE A GENETIC TRAIT THAT PROTECTS AGAINST A FORM OF MALARIA -- BUT INCREASES THEIR RISK OF HIV. AFRICAN AMERICANS MAKE UP 13 PERCENT OF THE U-S POPULATION -- BUT ACCOUNT FOR NEARLY HALF OF HIV AND AIDS CASES.

5PM - 9/3

SOME MEN ARE BORN TO CHEAT ON THEIR SIGNIFICANT OTHERS... ACCORDING TO A GROUP OF SWEDISH SCIENTISTS. THEIR STUDY FOUND A GENETIC LINK AMONG MEN WHO HAVE COMMITMENT ISSUES, INCLUDING SEXUAL FIDELITY. RESEARCHERS SAY IT HAS TO DO WITH A HORMONE RECEPTOR THAT INFLUENCES MONOGAMY IN ANIMALS. BUT... THE STUDY SAYS THE EFFECT OF THE GENE IS RELATIVELY MODEST.

6PM - 9/10

FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS SAY SOME INTERIOR DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN CAUGHT IN A SEX SCANDAL. 13 EMPLOYEES FROM DENVER AND WASHINGTON, WHO HANDLED *BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN OIL ROYALTIES, ARE ACCUSED OF RIGGING CONTRACTS AND HAVING SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH OIL COMPANY EMPLOYEES. THESE DETAILS WERE RELEASED IN A REPORT FROM THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT'S INSPECTOR GENERAL, WHO RECOMMENDS THE EMPLOYEES BE FIRED.

EDUCATION

5AM - 7/2

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS TAKING THE PRESSURE OFF OF MARYLAND SCHOOLS.. STRUGGLING TO MEET ACADEMIC STANDARDS. UNDER A NEW POLICY, MARYLAND WILL NOW HAVE TWO ACCOUNTABILITY TRACKS: ONE FOR SCHOOLS STRUGGLING OVERALL.. AND ANOTHER FOR THOSE WITH "FOCUSED" NEEDS. PRINCE GEORGE'S AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS FACED TOUGH REPERCUSSIONS UNDER THE PREVIOUS "NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND" LAW.

5AM - 7/14

AN EDUCATION-ADVOCACY GROUP WILL BEGIN AIRING ADS IN THE STATE ... CALLING ON BOTH PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO IMPROVE THE STANDING OF U.S. SCHOOLS. THE GROUP *STRONG AMERICAN SCHOOLS* SAYS THE ECONOMY AND GAS PRICES ARE ATTRACTING MOST OF THE PUBLIC'S ATTENTION AWAY FROM EDUCATION. THE 5-MILLION DOLLAR CAMPAIGN WILL FEATURE ADS IN T-V, RADIO, PRINT AND ONLINE.

5AM - 7/15

NEWLY RELEASED STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES SHOW MARYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GRADES THREE THROUGH EIGHT CONTINUE TO IMPROVE. THE MARYLAND SCHOOL ASSESSMENT EXAM SCORES SHOW THAT THE STATE HAS NARROWED THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP THAT SEPARATES AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND HISPANIC STUDENTS FROM WHITES AND ASIAN-AMERICANS. PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY AND BALTIMORE CONTINUE TO LAG BEHIND MARYLAND'S OTHER SCHOOL SYSTEMS.

5AM - 7/23

THE DEBATE IS INTENSIFYING ABOUT RECENT CHANGES IN THE MARYLAND SCHOOL ASSESSMENT TESTS. THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SHORTENED THIS YEAR'S TESTS TO EASE THE BURDEN ON STUDENTS AND TEACHERS. TEST SCORES ROSE DRAMATICALLY ACROSS THE STATE.. SOME CRITICS TELL "THE MONTGOMERY GAZETTE".. THEY'RE CONCERNED THAT THE SCORES MAY HAVE GONE UP "ONLY" BECAUSE THE TESTS WERE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR.

12PM - 7/4

D-C SCHOOLS CHANCELLOR MICHELLE RHEE PLANS TO FIRE 250 TEACHERS AND 500 TEACHER'S AIDES WHO FAILED TO MEET A JUNE 30-TH DEADLINE TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATION. CERTIFICATION IS REQUIRED UNDER THE "NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND" LAW. THE TEACHERS' UNION SAYS THE FIRINGS WILL HURT STUDENTS -- BUT RHEE SAYS NONE OF THOSE BEING FIRED HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO A CLASSROOM.

12PM - 9/3

D-C PUBLIC SCHOOLS DON'T MAKE THE GRADE, WHEN IT COMES TO SPECIAL EDUCATION. A NEW FEDERAL REPORT SAYS THAT SOME 20-PERCENT OF WASHINGTON'S SPECIAL ED STUDENTS ENROLL IN PRIVATE SCHOOL, BECAUSE THE CITY CANNOT MEET THEIR NEEDS. THIS COSTS TAXPAYERS ABOUT 200 MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR IN TUITION AND TRANSPORTATION.

5PM - 8/27

THE CLASS OF '08 FAILED TO LIFT S-A-T SCORES IN MARYLAND. TEST-TAKERS SCORED AN AVERAGE OF 502 ON THE MATH SECTION THIS YEAR. THAT'S UNCHANGED FROM 2007, AFTER DROPPING FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS. THE CRITICAL READING SCORE FELL BY A POINT TO 499..... WHILE THE WRITING SCORE ROSE BY ONE POINT TO 497. EDUCATION LEADERS SAY TEST SCORES ARE STATIC BECAUSE COMPETING EXAMS ARE GAINING POPULARITY.

5PM - 9/23

FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE PLANNING A PROTEST THIS FRIDAY. THAT MEANS NO GRADING PAPERS OR WORKING ON LESSON PLANS DURING LUNCH, OR TUTORING OR

CHAPERONING DANCES AFTER SCHOOL HOURS. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTED LAST NIGHT NOT TO OFFER TEACHERS A NEW CONTRACT. UNION TEACHERS HAVE BEEN WORKING WITHOUT A CONTRACT SINCE NEGOTIATIONS STALLED BACK IN MAY.

6PM - 8/21

THE WASHINGTON TEACHERS' UNION IS SUEING D-C PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THE LAWSUIT IS OVER THE SCHOOL SYSTEM FIRING MORE THAN 70 PROBATIONARY TEACHERS. THE TEACHERS' UNION SAYS THE TEACHERS WERE MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THEIR PROBATION AND WERE DISMISSED WITH NO REASON OR WARNING. THE UNION WANTS THE COURT TO STEP IN AND REINSTATE THE TEACHERS.

EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMY

5AM - 7/18

STAGGERED BY THE SLUMPING ECONOMY, VIRGINIA'S STATE REVENUES ARE BARELY MEETING THE BUDGET. GOVERNOR TIM Kaine's ADMINISTRATION WARNED OF MORE HARD TIMES AND CUTS IN THE NEW BUDGET PLAN. STATE AGENCIES HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO CURB HIRING, DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL, AND PURCHASES ON TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT.

5AM - 7/22

FAIRFAX COUNTY OFFICIALS ARE CONSIDERING A FOUR-DAY WORK WEEK FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES. THE CHANGE COULD CUT POLLUTION AND SAVE WORKERS AND THE GOVERNMENT MONEY. BUT SOME RESIDENTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HOW THE COUNTY WILL MAINTAIN QUALITY SERVICES. OFFICIALS WILL DEBATE A PROPOSAL FOR FOUR TEN-HOUR DAYS INSTEAD OF THE TRADITIONAL FIVE EIGHT-HOUR DAYS.

5AM - 7/22

THE WIFE OF A FORMER I-R-S MANAGER HAS PLEADED GUILTY IN THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR D.C. TAX SCAM. PATRICIA STEVEN OF HARWOOD, MARYLAND PLEADED GUILTY YESTERDAY TO RECEIPT OF STOLEN PROPERTY AND CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MONEY LAUNDERING. HER HUSBAND, ROBERT PLEADED GUILTY LAST MONTH. PROSECUTORS SAY THE TWO STOLE MORE THAN NINE-MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE D.C. TAX OFFICE.. BY WRITING FRAUDULENT CHECKS.

5AM - 7/30

D.C. COUNCILMAN MARION BARRY PLANS TO HOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THIS MORNING ON D.C.'S SUMMER JOB PROGRAM. BARRY SAYS MORE THAN 600 YOUTH WORKERS WERE DISPLACED.. WHEN THE SUMMER JOB PROGRAM AT P-R HARRIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS CANCELED. HE PLANS TO DISCUSS WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN.

5AM - 8/7

THERE ARE NEW REVELATIONS ABOUT WHY D.C.'S SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM OVERRAN ITS BUDGET BY MORE THAN 30-MILLION DOLLARS.. A SOURCE TELLS "THE WASHINGTON POST".. THE CAP OF 15-THOUSAND STUDENTS WAS DISREGARDED.. THE PERSON SAYS LAST WEEK ABOUT 21-THOUSAND STUDENTS WERE PAID. THE SOURCE ALSO SAYS THE RISE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE LAST MONTH FROM FIVE-85 TO SIX-55 AN HOUR.. WAS NOT FACTORED INTO THE BUDGET.

5AM - 8/11

A NEW REPORT OUT BY THE TAX FOUNDATION.. FINDS MARYLANDERS ARE INCREASINGLY BOGGED DOWN BY TAXES. MARYLAND RANKED FOURTH-HIGHEST AMONG ALL STATES.. WHEN IT COMES TO TAX BURDEN. THE REPORT ALSO SHOWS VIRGINIA'S TAX LOAD RANKED 17TH -- THE HIGHEST IN THREE DECADES. THE DISTRICT LIGHTENED ITS TAX BURDEN.. RANKING NUMBER EIGHT. LAST YEAR THE DISTRICT WAS FOURTH.

6AM - 8/29

MARYLAND'S COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE IS REPORTING NEWLY DISCOVERED FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. IT SAYS GENERAL FUND REVENUES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR THAT ENDED IN JUNE WERE MORE THAN 73-MILLION DOLLARS BELOW FORECASTS. THE REPORT CITES DROP-OFFS IN INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAXES, THE SALES TAX, AND THE TOBACCO TAX. THAT COULD MEAN MORE BUDGET CUTS THIS YEAR.

12PM - 9/8

MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S CONTROVERSIAL TRANSGENDER RIGHTS LAW WILL BE PUT UNDER THE MICROSCOPE IN ANNAPOLIS. THE STATE COURT OF APPEALS IS SET TO HEAR ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE RULE, WHICH PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST TRANS-GENDERED PEOPLE

WHEN IT COMES TO HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT. THE COURT WILL DECIDE WHETHER VOTERS WILL BE ASKED TO WEIGH IN ON THE ISSUE DURING THE NOVEMBER ELECTION.

12PM - 9/10

MONTGOMERY COUNTY IS EXPANDING ITS FOUR-DAY WORK WEEK FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES. COUNTY EXECUTIVE IKE LEGGETT SAYS IT SAVES ENERGY AND HELPS EASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION. RIGHT NOW, ABOUT ELEVEN PERCENT OF COUNTY EMPLOYEES WORK FOUR DAYS A WEEK, TEN HOURS A DAY.

12PM - 9/18

BUDGET WOES ARE TAKING CENTER STAGE IN SOME VIRGINIA COMMUNITIES. LOUDOUN COUNTY OFFICIALS SAY THE COUNTY IS FACING A 176 *MILLION* DOLLAR DEFICIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 20-10. THEY SAY THE SHORTFALL STEMS FROM LESS REVENUE AND MORE SPENDING. IT'S THE SAME STORY IN FAIRFAX COUNTY-- WHICH IS FACING A 430-MILLION DOLLAR GAP.

12PM - 9/24

STAGGERED BY THE SLUMPING ECONOMY, VIRGINIA'S STATE REVENUES ARE BARELY MEETING THE BUDGET. GOVERNOR TIM Kaine'S ADMINISTRATION WARNED OF MORE HARD TIMES AND CUTS IN THE NEW BUDGET PLAN. STATE AGENCIES HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO CURB HIRING, DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL, AND PURCHASES ON TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT.

6PM - 8/18

VIRGINIA GOVERNOR TIM Kaine TOLD LEGISLATORS TO EXPECT MORE BELT TIGHTENING, BUT HAS NOT SPECIFIED HOW DEEP CUTS TO THE STATE BUDGET WILL BE. THE GOVERNOR SAYS PUBLIC EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO REVIEW FOR REDUCTIONS. Kaine ALREADY ORDERED STATE AGENCIES TO CURB HIRING, TRAVEL AND PURCHASES. LEGISLATORS PREDICT THE BUDGET SHORTFALL WILL TOP ONE BILLION DOLLARS.

11PM - 8/30

VIRGINIA TECH PLANS TO SPEND NEARLY A MILLION DOLLARS TO INCREASE DIVERSITY. THE SCHOOL WILL USE THE MONEY TO HIRE STAFF, RECRUIT MINORITY STUDENTS AND MAKE CHANGES TO ITS CURRICULUM OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. THE CHANGES ARE BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS BY A TASK FORCE THAT WAS FORMED TWO YEARS AGO. LAST YEAR, LESS THAN FIVE-PERCENT OF THE STUDENTS ON VIRGINIA TECH'S CAMPUS WERE BLACK.

FAMILY ISSUES

5AM - 9/2

D.C.'S CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY IS GETTING A FINANCIAL BOOST. CITY OFFICIALS ARE SHIFTING SIX-MILLION DOLLARS TO THE AGENCY. IT'S BEEN STRUGGLING WITH A SURGE OF NEW CASES.. EVER SINCE JANUARY.. WHEN FOUR GIRLS WERE FOUND DEAD IN THEIR HOME IN SE WASHINGTON D.C. SIX SOCIAL WORKERS WERE FIRED FOR NOT RESPONDING TO EARLIER REPORTS ABOUT THE FAMILY.

5AM - 9/18

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S GOING TO GIVE D.C. SOME HELP STAYING WARM THIS WINTER. THE CITY'S GETTING MORE THAN 300-THOUSAND DOLLARS IN EMERGENCY ENERGY ASSISTANCE. LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WILL BE ABLE TO USE THE CASH TO PAY THEIR HEATING BILLS.

6AM - 7/17

THE DIRECTOR OF D.C.'S CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY IS STEPPING DOWN.. MAYOR FENTY SAYS HE'S ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF SHARLYNN BOBO. HE'S NAMED THE AGENCY'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ROQUE GERALD, AS INTERIM DIRECTOR. BOBO HAS BEEN UNDER FIRE SINCE JANUARY.. WHEN FOUR GIRLS WERE FOUND DEAD IN THEIR HOME IN SE WASHINGTON D.C. THEIR MOTHER IS CHARGED IN THEIR DEATHS.

12PM - 7/15

MORE CONCERNS THIS NOON FOR THE D-C DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES. THE AGENCY HAS ANNOUNCED IT'S INVESTIGATING THE DEATH OF A SECOND BABY AT THE CENTER OF A NEGLECT CASE. OFFICIALS HAVE NOT CONFIRMED HOW THE CHILD DIED, BUT COUNCIL MEMBER TOMMY WELLS SAYS HE WAS TOLD THE BOY'S MOTHER ROLLED OVER AND SLEPT ON HIM. YESTERDAY, THE D-C COUNCIL HELD A HEARING IN RESPONSE TO THE DEATH OF A DIFFERENT CHILD.

12PM - 9/8

MARYLAND IS LEADING THE COUNTRY WHEN IT COMES TO GETTING CHILDREN VACCINATED. NEW DATA FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SHOWS MORE THAN 91-PERCENT OF 19 TO 35-MONTH OLDS IN THE FREE STATE GET THE COMMON SHOTS. THAT'S COMPARED TO 77-PERCENT NATION-WIDE. STATE HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY THE HIGH RATE IS IN PART DUE TO A PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES FREE VACCINATIONS TO ELIGIBLE KIDS.

5PM - 9/11

FEDERAL OFFICIALS ARE WARNING CONSUMERS TO AVOID ALL BABY FORMULA MADE IN CHINA, DUE TO CONTAMINATION CONCERNS. THE F-D-A SAYS SOME FORMULAS TAINTED WITH THE CHEMICAL MELAMINE -- WHICH IS USED TO MAKE PLASTIC -- MAY BE ON SALE AT ETHNIC GROCERY STORES IN THE U-S. ALL AMERICAN BRANDS *ARE* SAFE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF ILLNESSES IN THIS COUNTRY.

ELDERLY & AGING

5AM - 7/15

PUBLIC TRANSIT BUSES IN MARYLAND ARE GOING HYBRID. THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION ACQUIRED 20 NEW HYBRID-FUEL BUSES. GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE THE PURCHASE . THE ENTIRE FLEET WILL EVENTUALLY BE HYBRIDS. PLANS CALL FOR AGING BUSES TO BE REPLACED WITH HYBRID FUEL VEHICLES... SUBJECT TO FUNDING.

5AM - 7/31

MORE THAN 230-THOUSAND FEDERAL STIMULUS CHECKS ARE UNCLAIMED IN MARYLAND, D.C., AND VIRGINIA. THEY'RE WORTH AT LEAST 300 DOLLARS EACH. THE I-R-S INITIATED EFFORTS TO HELP POOR, DISABLED, AND ELDERLY RESIDENTS CLAIM THEIR CHECKS. MANY OF THOSE RESIDENTS DIDN'T FILE A TAX RETURN. TO RECEIVE A STIMULUS CHECK, YOU NEED TO FILE A TAX RETURN BY OCTOBER 15TH.

12PM - 8/8

HIGH GAS PRICES ARE FORCING AT LEAST TWO VOLUNTEERS TO START MAKING DELIVERIES ON TWO WHEELS, INSTEAD OF FOUR. FREDERICK MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERYMAN, MIKE BRADLEY AND HIS NINE YEAR OLD DAUGHTER ARE NOW USING A *MOTORCYCLE* TO BRING FOOD TO HOMEBOUND SENIOR CITIZENS. BRADLEY SAYS THE CYCLE GETS BETTER GAS MILEAGE THAN HIS TRUCK. HE CAN ONLY DELIVER FIVE MEALS AT A TIME, BUT OTHERWISE, HE SAYS THE SWITCH ISN'T SLOWING HIM DOWN.

5PM - 8/12

SOME MEDICATIONS TO TREAT HEARTBURN AND ACID REFLUX COULD BE CAUSING A DIFFERENT HEALTH CONCERN. A NEW STUDY FINDS SENIORS WHO TAKE DRUGS SUCH AS PRILOSEC, NEXIUM, AND PREVACID FOR LONGER THAN SEVEN YEARS ARE 93 PERCENT MORE LIKELY TO DEVELOP BONE FRACTURES. BUT USING THE DRUGS FOR UP TO SIX YEARS PRODUCED NO RISK. THE STUDY CAN BE FOUND IN THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION JOURNAL.

6PM - 9/30

SOME DISTURBING NUMBERS OUT TONIGHT ON THE STATE OF NURSING HOMES IN THE DISTRICT. ACCORDING TO A NEW FEDERAL REPORT, EVERY SINGLE NURSING HOME IN THE DISTRICT HAD AT LEAST ONE DEFICIENCY. THE MOST COMMON DEFICIENCIES CENTERED AROUND THE QUALITY OF CARE AND MEALS. FOR-PROFIT NURSING HOMES WERE GIVEN THE MOST CITATIONS, AHEAD OF GOVERNMENT AND NON-PROFIT NURSING HOMES.

PSA Rotation ABC 7/NC8

John Quinn

PSAs air 2:05AM- 459AM Mon-Sun

| April-June | Jul-Sept | Oct-Dec |
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| | | |
| American Lung Assoc. | American Lung Assoc. | American Lung Assoc. |
| AA | AA | AA |
| Federal Student Aid | Federal Student Aid | Federal Student Aid |
| Foundation for Better Life | Foundation for Better Life | Foundation for Better Life |
| National MS Society | National MS Society | National MS Society |
| Unicef | Unicef | Unicef |
| USO | USO | USO |
| | | |
| Ad Council Foreclosures | Ad Council Foreclosures | Ad Council Dropouts |
| American Red Cross | American Red Cross | Credit Union Foundation |
| EEOC | EEOC | EPA |
| Entertainment Industry Found. | Entertainment Industry Found. | Italian American Foundation |
| Patient Advocate Foundation | Patient Advocate Foundation | Paralyzed Vets |
| Habitat for Humanity | Habitat for Humanity | |
| Federal Student Aid | Federal Student Aid | |
| EEOC | EEOC | |
| | FT Myer Military Community | |

* Please note that we have been airing PSAs regarding digital conversation they are being implemented by Michelle Levy.